(b) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to provide vehicles to Imphal Post Master General's Office for utilisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No decision has been taken in this regard.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a).

(c) There is no office of Post Master General in Imphal.

Decision to terminate VSNL's monopoly over ILD services

2608. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has decided to review competition in ILD services in April, 2004 in WTO;

(b) if so, why Government have decided to terminate VSNL's monopoly over ILD services in 2002 itself while it had already started discussing disinvestment of its equity in the company;

(c) whether this decision had any impact on the value of shares of the company in the market; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) India had committed to WTO to review the opening up of ILD services to competition in the year 2004.

(b) The objectives set forth in the National Telecom Policy of 1994 includes private investment and participation to bridge the resource gap. Thus, the Government committed itself to deregulate the Telecom sector in a phased manner. Government further decided to discontinue VSNL's monopoly on international voice services by 31.3.2002 in order to remove constraints on the development of Telecom sector in the country.

(c) and (d) Although there was a fall in price of the VSNL share after the announcement of advancement of withdrawal of monopoly, the movement of share price of a company depends upon many market forces. Government has also granted a compensation package to VSNL.